

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7064

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10147

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDO-PAK RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 6852

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS JULY 9 WITH POL COUNSELOR, MEA
JOINT SECY (PAK/AFGHAN) I.P. SINGH AND INDIAN DCM-DESIGNATE
TO ISLAMABAD KIREN DOSHI COMMENTED ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS ON
FOLLOWING TOPICS.

2. NUCLEAR CONVERSATION (REFTEL); SINGH SAID THAT AFTER
FORMAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN INDIAN FONSEC METHA AND PAK
FONSEC SHAHI HAD CONCLUDED DURING MAY ISLAMABAD MEETINGS,
SHAHI HAD EMBARKED UPON LONG EXPLANATION OF PAKISTANI INTEREST
IN FINDING JOINT GROUND WITH INDIA ON SUBJECTS OF ASSURANCES
BY NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES TO NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES, SHAHI AL-
LEGEDLY CITED NUMEROUS INSTANCES FROM UNGA DISCUSSIONS WITH
WHICH NEITHER METHA NOR SINGH HAD BEEN FAMILIAR. HE
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SUGGESTED THAT IF INDIA SUPPORTED PAKISTAN ON THIS SUBJECT.
OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA WOULD BE
LIKELY TO RELAX THEIR OBLIGATIONS. SINGH SAID HE RECALLED
THAT SHAHI HAD SAID THE SOVIETS SUPPORTED THE GENERAL IDEA

OF GUARANTEES BUT HAD ENCOUNTERED SOME PROBLEMS (SIC) WITH SOME OF THEIR EASTERN EUROPEAN FRIENDS. SINGH SAID THE QUESTION OF AN INDIAN GUARANTEE TO PAKISTAN OR FOR PAKISTAN HAD NOT RPT NOT COME UP, AND THE INDIANS HAD NOT THOUGHT SHAHI WAS TALKING ABOUT INDIA AS A "NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE." INDEED, THE INDIANS HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT SHAHI HAD NOT RESURRECTED THIS SPECIFIC TOPIC FROM THE MAY 1975 DELHI TALKS. SINGH SAID METHA HAD PLEADED UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE SUBJECT AND SUGGESTED THAT WHEN A SPECIFIC SITUATION AROSE IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM TO WHICH THE PAK SUGGESTION MIGHT APPLY, THE GOP MIGHT ASK THE GOI TO CONSIDER IT AGAIN.

3. EMBASSIES: DOSHI AND SINGH BOTH EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION THAT INDIAN AND PAKISTANI MISSIONS WOULD BE BRINGING WITH THEM AN ENORMOUS "TAIL" OF PERSONNEL, RANGING FROM AYAHs AND GARDNERS TO COOKS AND WATCHMEN. THIS WAS A HANGOVER FROM THE LONG YEARS OF CONCERN OVER PRESSURE AND HARASSMENT OF LOCALLY EMPLOYED MAINTENANCE STAFF AND SERVANTS IN THE 1950S AND EARLY 1960S. SINGH EXPECTED INDIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE BAJPAI TO REACH DELHI EARLY NEXT WEEK AND TO GO ON TO ISLAMABAD BETWEEN JULY 19-24, IN TIME TO MEET THE ORIGINALLY SET DEADLINES FOR THE OPENING OF MISSIONS. (DOSHI HIMSELF WILL PROBABLY GO TO ISLAMABAD BY JULY 14.) EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO COORDINATE THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE TWO MISSIONS BY PROVIDING FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS ON THE SAME DAY.

4. PRIVATE TRAVEL: SINGH SAID THE GOI EXPECTED TO ISSUE 100,000 PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO PAKISTAN WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. IT WAS CURRENTLY ISSUING 200 VISAS A DAY AND WAS ANTICIPATING MOVING THIS UP TO 500 A DAY IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. SINGH EXPECTED THAT THE PAKISTANIS WERE RUNNING AT ABOUT THE SAME RATE AS BOTH SIDES DEALT WITH THE ENORMOUS BACKLOG OF PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO VISIT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS ON THE OTHER SIDE. PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN APPLYING FOR VISAS AND EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN TRADE WITH PAKISTAN WERE ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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DELUGING THE MEA, AND DOSHI EXPECTED THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR PROBLEM IN TERMS OF NUMBERS IN THE INITIAL WEEKS OF THE INDIAN MISSION IN ISLAMABAD. THE GOI PLANNED TO PUT NO SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON PAKISTANI TRAVEL IN INDIA OTHER THAN THAT APPLICABLE TO OTHER FOREIGNERS.

5. CIVIL AIR: THE INDIAN TEAM TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIR LRAFFIC BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN LEFT FOR PAKISTAN TODAY. SINGH THOUGHT FINAL TRAFFIC RIGHTS WOULD ALLOW FOR 15-20 FLIGHTS A WEEK, WITH DAILY FLIGHTS BETWEEN KARACHI AND BOMBAY, AND 4-5 TIMES WEEKLY FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND KARACHI AND DELHI AND LAHORE. LAND ROUTES FOR THE TIME BEING WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE RAIL AND ROAD LINKS AT THE

WAGAH BORDER.

6. MARITIME BOUNDARY: SINGH ACKNOWLEDGED WITH EMBARRASSMENT THAT AFTER PROPOSING A LATE JUNE DATE FOR TALKS TO THE GOP AND HAVING THIS ACCEPTED, A DELAY IN THE RETURN FROM ANOTHER MEETING ABROAD OF INDIAN LEGAL ADVISOR JAGOTA AND THE DROPPING BY PANAM EARLIER OF ITS DELHI-KARACHI SERVICE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE INDIANS TO MEET THEIR OWN SCHEDULE. GOI HAD EXPRESSED ITS REGRET TO GOP AND SINGH HOPED THAT ANOTHER DATE IN AUGUST COULD BE AGREED UPON.

7. PROSPECTS FOR THE "FIRST YEAR": DOSHI THOUGHT THE FIRST YEAR WOULD BE DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO CONSOLIDATING THE AGREEMENTS ALREADY REACHED AND POSSIBLY TO SMOOTHING OUT INEFFICIENCIES AND PROBLEMS IN THESE AGREEMENTS CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE SUSPICION AND BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE ON BOTH SIDES. HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THE CUMBERSOME ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSHIPMENT OF TRUCK CARGOES AT WAGAH, THE LONG DELAY FOR CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATIONS PROCEDURES BY RAIL, AND THE IRAN/AFGHANISTAN TRANSIT TRADE QUESTION. THERE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ABRASIONS IN COURSE OF HANDLING THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS AND BUSINESS VISITORS, AND THERE MIGHT WELL BE SOME MINOR KINKS IN THE AVIATION ARRANGEMENTS. BUT ALL THESE COULD BE HANDLED, HE THOUGHT. HE ENVISAGED NO DISCUSSIONS ON KASHMIR AT ALL. THE PAKISTANIS, DOSHI FELT STRONGLY, HAD DONE A FAR BETTER JOB OF PREPARING FOR OPENING THEIR MISSION IN DELHI THAN THE INDIANS HAD FOR ISLAMABAD. HE THOUGHT THAT IN PART THIS

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MIGHT BE DUE TO THE DEVOTION OF GREATER AND HIGHER-LEVEL ATTENTION TO THE SUBJECT THAN HAD TAKEN PLACE IN DELHI. NOT A SINGLE SUBJECT HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OR FOREIGN MINISTER HERE, THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE INTEREST DISPLAYED BY OTHER GOI MINISTRIES IN RESOLVING MINOR PROBLEMS WHICH HAD DELAYED THE INDIANS, AND THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SECRETARIAL STAFFING FOR THE ISLAMABAD EMBASSY.

8. DOSHI THOUGHT THAT THIS SYMBOLIZED THE DECLINING ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN THE THINKING OF THE INDIAN BUREAUCRACY IN GENERAL AND EVEN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. NEVERTHELESS, ONE OF THE LONGER-RANGE PROBLEMS THAT THE INDIAN MISSION IN ISLAMABAD WOULD HAVE TO OVERCOME BOTH THE INERTIA AND LINGERING DISTRUST OF PAKISTAN AMONG MANY MIDDLE-LEVEL INDIAN BUREAUCRATS. THE PROBLEM WAS NOT WITH THE POLITICIANS BUT THE CLERKS WHO SAW NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD DO ANYTHING TO "HELP PAKISTAN." DOSHI THOUGHT THE PAK MISSION IN DELHI MIGHT FIND THE SAME THING TO BE TRUE FOR ITS OWN BUREAUCRACY.

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